Proclamation

WHEREAS, 232 years ago, our founding fathers wrote the United States Constitution whose preamble states, "We the people, in Order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America;" and

ALTHOUGH the United States of America has made significant progress toward a more perfect union, this progress has not come all at once, and our country still strives to establish justice, welfare, liberty, and tranquility for all; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1959, the City of St. Augustine Beach embodies the values of diversity, equality, and inclusivity and in 2013, enacted a Fair Housing and Employment Nondiscrimination Ordinance, including sexual orientation and gender orientation as protected classes; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court held that the fundamental right to marry belongs to same-sex couples in all 50 states, a victory for all who fought for equality and recognition of their unions; and

WHEREAS lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) people are valued members of our families, community, and history; and

WHEREAS people that identify as LGBTQIA have made substantial contributions to St. Augustine history and culture including Kenneth Worcester Dow who assembled, preserved, and protected the Dow Museum of Historic homes, Fred Francis who organized the Saints Semi-professional baseball field and deeded Francis Field to the City of Saint Augustine; and

WHEREAS it is with most profound regard that we recognize the struggles of our neighbors, family members, friends, and all of past and present peoples of St Augustine who have suffered, fought, and died for loving whom they love. Particularly we remember the victims of anti-gay violence in Florida including the 49 lives taken on June 12, 2016, at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, and Guillermo, the French interpreter of the Guale Indian language, a martyr who died for identifying as a gay man in the first recorded anti-gay execution in America in 1566;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Margaret England, under the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of St Augustine Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 2020, as "PRIDE MONTH"

MOREOVER, I declare that a rainbow pride flag will fly in recognition of such. call upon all citizens to celebrate the progress that we have made, the contributions of the LGBTQIA community to our city, to stand as an ally with our friends and neighbors in the face of prejudice wherever it exists, and to embrace the great diversity within our community.

IN WITNESS of which, I, Margaret England, hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of St. Augustine Beach, Florida, to be affixed this June, 2020.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH

Margaret England, Mayor